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U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

Increasing amount authorized for the erection and equipment of suitable and adequate buildings ... for the use of the National Institute of Dental Research. 1956.

(Senate report no. 1719, 84th Cong., 2d sess.)

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Calendar No. 1742

84TH CONGRESS }
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SENATE

{ REPORT
{ No. 1719

U.S. Congress. Senate. Committee on Labor and Public Welfare

INCREASING AMOUNT AUTHORIZED FOR THE ERECTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SUITABLE AND ADEQUATE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES FOR THE USE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL RESEARCH

MARCH 28 (legislative day, MARCH 26), 1956.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HILL, from the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3246]

The Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3246) to increase the amount authorized for the erection and equipment of suitable and adequate buildings and facilities for the use of the National Institute of Dental Research, having considered the same report favorably thereon, without amendment, and unanimously recommend that the bill do pass.

EXPLANATION OF BILL

This bill has as its objective the prompt carrying out of the declared intention of the Congress to construct among the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda a building to properly house the National Institute of Dental Research. The committee believes passage of this bill is important to both the American people and the dental profession in our country. It is a simple and uncomplicated proposal. It merely increases the existing authorization for such construction from 2 to 5 million dollars.

The Committee on Labor and Public Welfare unanimously recommended and the Congress in passing the National Dental Research Act of 1948 approved and authorized the construction of a building to house the activities of the National Institute of Dental Research. In that legislation the Congress authorized an appropriation of not to exceed \$2 million for the construction of that building. Subsequently the Congress appropriated \$100,000 which was used to develop building plans and specifications for the Dental Institute. The conflict in Korea intervened, however, and, of necessity, the construction work had to be postponed. Subsequently, and despite

the fact that plans for the building have been drawn at great cost, there has been no appropriation to begin its construction. The explanation is very simple. It lies in the fact that building costs have advanced considerably since 1948, and while the sum of \$2 million was undoubtedly sufficient at that time, to construct the Dental Institute Building in accordance with the already approved plans, it would, it is estimated, cost a great deal more now than the amount originally estimated. Failure to initiate the construction of the Dental Institute Building at the time the Congress authorized the project has proved a most costly postponement. If this construction should be further postponed, it will be still more wasteful. More important than the monetary aspects of this situation, however, is the fact that lack of proper facilities for the Dental Institute's program poses a serious threat to this Nation's progress toward the effective control and prevention of dental disease.

The committee received impressive testimony regarding the importance of this measure from Dr. C. Willard Camalier, assistant secretary and past president of the American Dental Association; from Dr. H. Trendley Dean, secretary of the council of dental research, American Dental Association; from Dr. Roy J. Doty, representing the council on dental therapeutics of the American Dental Association; from Dr. Harry Lyons, dean of the School of Dentistry of the Medical College of Virginia and president-elect of the American Dental Association; from Dr. Joseph Volker, dean of the Alabama School of Dentistry; and from Mrs. Charles D. Center, assistant director of public health education of Georgia's Department of Public Health. In addition, the committee is in receipt of numerous communications from deans of dental schools and from dental societies in every section of the country wholeheartedly endorsing the passage of this measure.

The testimony of these individual witnesses as to the need for the construction of separate housing for the National Institute of Dental Research, the desirability of promptly proceeding with such construction, and the effect of properly housing the scientific personnel involved in dental research in the National Institute on dental research carried on in schools of dentistry and other non-Federal institutions, was impressive. They have convinced the committee that the scientists now working at the Institute are so crowded that effective work is difficult and expansion almost impossible. Moreover, the services of men of outstanding ability are not being utilized to the full, inasmuch as there is insufficient space to house the number of research workers who, if they could be assigned to assist chief investigators, would multiply the efficiency and output of the latter.

The committee was also impressed by testimony presented to the effect that rather than there being any possible conflict between an expenditure of funds to properly house the National Institute and the allocation of funds to encourage research in non-Federal institutions, the fact is that the two will complement each other and should proceed concurrently. Deans of schools of dentistry were particularly insistent in pointing out that proper recognition of the importance of dental research, such as would be conveyed by the passage of this measure, will act as a great stimulus to research in non-Federal institutions and will encourage a great many more young scientists to enter the field. Moreover, the additional space for dental research

which would be made available by the enactment of this bill will permit the proper development of the visiting scientists program, whereby scientists on the staffs of the various dental schools might spend varying times at the Institute learning new techniques or conducting research.

The committee believes that in wholeheartedly supporting the passage of this bill, America's dentists are once again proving that they are indeed members of a great profession and that now, as always in the past, America's dentists are placing the interests and well-being of the American people ahead of their own immediate self-interests. This is the distinguishing mark of a true profession. Your committee believes that in addition to all the substantive reasons for the construction of a separate building to house the National Institute of Dental Research, which are set forth in the hearings the committee held, it is only fitting and proper that the Congress and the American people pay tribute to the members of a truly fine profession by giving to that profession the recognition which would be implicit in the construction of separate facilities to house Federal research in dental problems. Such a separate Institute building, to be located along with the other Institutes of Health at Bethesda, will also serve to demonstrate to visitors from abroad the respect in which we hold dentistry in the United States and the importance which we properly attach to it.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Following are the reports from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, dated February 29, 1956; and the Bureau of the Budget, dated March 7, 1956.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

FEBRUARY 29, 1956.

HON. LISTER HILL,

*Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is in response to your request of February 22, 1956, for a report on S. 3246, a bill to increase the amount authorized for the erection and equipping of suitable and adequate buildings and facilities for the use of the National Institute of Dental Research.

The bill would amend section 5 of the National Dental Research Act (Public Law 755, 80th Cong.) authorizing the appropriation of \$2 million for the construction of buildings and facilities for the use of the National Institute of Dental Research by increasing the authorized appropriation from 2 million to 5 million dollars.

If the only question relevant to S. 3246 were whether the original 1948 authorization for a dental research facility is an adequate construction estimate in the light of current building costs, this Department would interpose no objection to legislation increasing the authorization to at least \$4 million.

However, the proposed bill needs to be considered in relation to a more fundamental question: that is, whether further expansion of dental research in Government laboratories should be accorded equal or greater importance as compared with efforts to strengthen the programs of dental research throughout the Nation's dental schools.

On this basic question, the Department believes there are two steps in expanding the total dental research effort which must take precedence over additional expansion of the direct research work at the Bethesda laboratories of the National Institute of Dental Research:

The essential first step is to foster the development of dental research potential in the Nation's dental schools. The 1957 budget attempts to do this by doubling the funds for grants and tripling the funds for dental manpower training through fellowship stipend.

The second step is to begin the construction of much needed research facilities in the Nation's dental schools. The President has requested legislation that would provide \$40 million over a 5-year period for construction of facilities for research and training in dentistry.

The Department's 1957 budget emphasizes a greatly expanded program in the support of research and training in the Nation's dental schools rather than immediate expansion of direct Federal research activities. A national program of broad research scope cannot afford to depend upon a concentration of research effort in one or, at best, a few research centers; yet at present, the operation of the Federal dental research laboratories receives a higher proportion of the Nation's current dental research resources than is true in any similar broad category of medical research. Beyond question, these Federal activities play an important role, are highly productive, and more extensive support may well be warranted in later years. What that level of future support should be can best be determined after a more balanced program of support for non-Federal research is underway.

If, however, action were to be taken now to erect (and soon to staff) additional Government laboratories for dental research, this would seriously compete with the current efforts to broaden the base of research in the dental schools.

For the reasons indicated above, we recommend that S. 3246 not be enacted by the Congress.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that it perceives no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

HEROLD C. HUNT,
Acting Secretary.

REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D. C., March 7, 1956.

HON. LISTER HILL,
*Chairman, Committee on Labor and Public Welfare,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your request of February 22, 1956, for the views of the Bureau of the Budget on S. 3246, a bill to increase the amount authorized for the erection and equipment of suitable and adequate buildings and facilities for the use of the National Institute of Dental Research.

This bill would amend the National Dental Research Act to increase the limitation on appropriations for the construction of facilities for the National Institute of Dental Research from 2 to 5 million dollars.

While we recognize that construction costs have increased since the

original legislation was enacted, we question the need for increasing this authorization. Although such an increase might be required if a policy of expanding dental research in federally operated facilities were to be adopted, it is our view that there is a greater need to promote research in non-Federal facilities.

A fundamental policy consideration in the expansion of Federal efforts in medical and dental research has been the Nation's need for additional trained research personnel and the related need for assistance in providing adequate facilities for training and research institutions. The budget for 1957, which provides for a substantial increase of grants for non-Federal research and training programs, and the President's proposal for legislation to authorize \$40 million in grants for the construction of dental schools and research facilities are designed to meet these needs.

Expansion of facilities and staff for dental research at the National Institutes of Health would further concentrate such research in the Federal establishment and create additional competition for the services of trained researchers. This would not be consistent with the desirable objective of broadening the base of dental research in dental schools and similar institutions.

Accordingly, this Bureau recommends that S. 3246 not be enacted.

Sincerely yours,

PERCY RAPPAPORT,
Assistant Director.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

NATIONAL DENTAL RESEARCH ACT (42 U. S. C. 288, note)

* * * * *

SEC. 5. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated a sum not to exceed **[\$2,000,000]** *\$5,000,000* for the erection and equipment of suitable and adequate buildings and facilities for the use of the National Institute of Dental Research in carrying out the provisions of this Act. The Administrator of General Services is authorized to acquire, by purchase, condemnation, donation, or otherwise, a suitable and adequate site or sites, selected on the advice of the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, in or near the District of Columbia for such buildings and facilities, and to erect thereon, furnish, and equip such buildings and facilities. The amount authorized to be appropriated in this section shall include the cost of preparation of drawings and specifications, supervision of construction, and other administrative expenses incident to the work: *Provided*, That the Administrator of General Services shall prepare the plans and specifications, make all necessary contracts, and supervise construction.

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